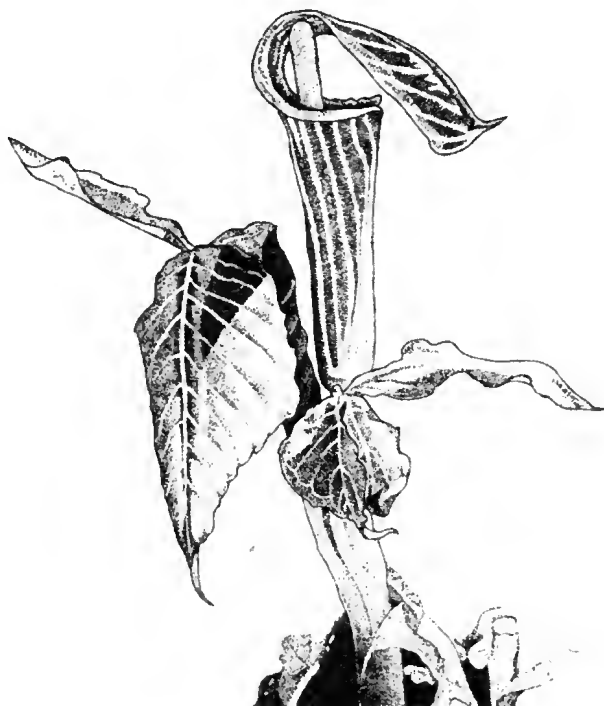


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TRAIL & LANDSCAPE



*A Publication Concerned With
Natural History and Conservation*

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

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Fenja Brodo

Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse the information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on Club activities.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members: see "Coming Events" in this issue.

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TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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Welcome New Members

Ottawa Area

Nadine Amelotte & Family
Cheryl Arratoon & Family
Derek Atkinson & Family
Jennifer Barr
Emily Bird
Jeroen Bokman
Huguette Fournier
Nathalie Grice & Family
Shu-Yu Hung
Tim Inkpen

Paul Johanis
Jacqueline Knight & Family
Stephen Loyd & Family
Vinko Culjak Mathieu
John David Raftus
Judith Rash & Family
Cole & Liz Sholto
Natalie Sopinka
Garrett Thoms

Gatineau Area

Chantal Picard

Michael Plante-Ajah

Ontario

Andrew Bryan
Kyle Fleming
Susan Gallinger & Family

Heather Lunn
William Wallace & Family

Alberta

Brian Hoffe

Henry Steger
Chair, Membership Committee
February 2013

“Golden Anniversary” Membership List 1943 - 2014

*Henry Steger
Membership Chair*

Joined in

1943	Dr. C. Stuart Houston	Saskatoon SK
1943	Sheila Thomson	Ottawa ON
1946	Dr. Jack M. Gillett	Ottawa ON
1951	Dr. E.L. Bousfield	Mississauga, ON
1954	Yvonne & James F. Bendell	Clayton ON
1956	Dr. Charles D. Bird	Eskine AB
1956	J.W. Holliday	Ottawa ON
1957	R.E. Bedford	Ottawa ON
1957	Joe E. Bryant	Ottawa ON
1958	F.R. Cook	North Augusta ON
1960	Dr. A.J. Erskine	Sackville NB
1960	V. Bruce Collins	Bancroft ON
1960	Dr. G.R. & D. Hanes	Carleton Place ON
1961	R.W. Nero	Winnipeg MB
1962	Jo Ann Mackenzie	Surrey BC
1963	Dr. T. Mosquin	Balderson, ON
1964	Ron Pittaway	Toronto, ON

The 135th Annual Business Meeting

K. McLachlan Hamilton

I have no idea why, but the 135th Annual Business Meeting (ABM) was popular. Perhaps it was the weather, as it was neither bone-chilling nor snow-laden like previous years. It could have been the venue (the Fletcher Wildlife Garden) or the promised discussion about the pending changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. Who knows, but it was nice to see.

I spent the pre-meeting time looking through the minutes of the 134th ABM, the Committees' Annual Reports and financial statements. I also had time to chat with other members and grab a cup of coffee. I always learn something at these meetings which helps me understand why the Club is moving in a particular direction. I also get bits of information from other members that I would have not learned otherwise. Here are some of the items I found interesting.

Communication within the Club is changing with the times. The OFNC now participates in Facebook (<<http://www.facebook.com/groups/379992938552/>>) and Twitter (<[@OttawaFieldNat](http://t.co/OttawaFieldNat)>). It is there where you will find the most up-to-date information. The Club also has a blog, Field Notes (<http://ofnc.wordpress.com/>), which Natalie is responsible for. She, and others, post bits about events and ongoing research. The latest blog can be found on the right side of the homepage, all you have to do is click on the link. To see previous postings, use the above blog address. The Bulletin Board, also found on the homepage, is very active. It alerts members of upcoming events that may not appear in *T&L*, as well as items of interest that require quick responses. A good example is the proposal to delist milkweed and Dog-strangling Vine from the noxious weed list in the Ontario Weed Control Act. The link is there for anyone to easily access the document and add their comments, but only until 14 April. In situations like this where rapid turnaround times are required, the Bulletin Board is a perfect venue.

Speaking about the OFNC website (www.ofnc.ca), I have used it to access the electronic version of *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* (CFN). I will admit that I am old school when it comes to journals. I prefer my reading material sandwiched between two hard pieces of paper; however, some things are just not printable. The videos of the lynxes featured in the e-version of vol 127 are absolutely breathtaking. I have never seen a lynx, let alone a group, behaving like no one is watching. What an amazing opportunity. You should try that link, found on the right side of the homepage.

In fear of belaboring the subject, I would like to stress the importance of the website. Events that could not be arranged in time for *T&L* printing, or occur spontaneously (such as the Snowy Owl influx), or are cancelled at the last moment are posted on the website (details mentioned earlier). The Fletcher Wildlife Garden's newsletter, council minutes, financial statements, Constitution and By-laws, and committee contact information are all there. Our webmaster, Sandy, works very hard to keep it current and it is well worth the visit.

Financial statements are always tough, but our Treasurer, Ken Young, took the time to explain the particulars. Essentially, all the assets are in different funds. Each fund, and currently there are eight, is used for a different purpose but all are used to operate the club. Last year, five of eight funds received a portion of the incoming revenue. Two do not receive further income because they are for specific projects and the remaining fund is to be used for outstanding expenses should the Club fold. The bottom line was: revenues exceeded expenses.

The Committees' annual reports were made available prior to the formal portion; so time was used for questions and comments. Items of interest were: the name change of one of the committees (Excursions and Lectures is now Events), the Club received an Affiliate Award from Nature Canada in recognition of its contribution (primarily from the Birds Committee) to the success of BirdLife International's World Congress, the Conservation Committee is once again active thanks to Owen Clarkin, and the *CFN* is now up-to-date and is experiencing an increase in submissions for upcoming issues. For me, this latter achievement is most noteworthy because since I have been on council, *CFN* delays were always an issue. Other Club achievements may be found on page 55.

A good portion of the meeting was spent with Ann MacKenzie discussing the present rules from which the OFNC operates and the changes the club must make to conform to the Not-for-Profit Corporations Act—legislation passed by the Ontario government in 2010, but has yet to be enacted. This is not new as it was discussed at the 134th ABM, and an *ad-hoc* committee was formed shortly after. Ann's update included: the need to revise the membership classes and the required changes in some Council operations, in ABM procedures, and in OFNC documentation. The revisions may be required by January 2015, but since it depends on the provincial legislation, it will most likely occur in 2016.

The ABM is where the officers and council members are nominated and voted on. The officers are elected at the ABM, while other positions (i.e. Committee Chairs) are appointed at a later date. Your officers for 2014 are: Fenja Brodo (President), Henry Steger and Eleanor Zurbrigg (Vice-Presidents), Ken Young (Treasurer) and Annie Bélair (Recording Secretary).

David Hobden, Diane Lepage and Jeff Skevington are stepping down, while Julia Cipriani is rejoining council. Council has met since and chairs have been designated. See below for the specifics.

The meeting ended with a recognition of the passing of three Club members. Gordon Pringle was a long-time member of the club, a key member of the Birds Committee and the chair of the Birds Records (Subcommittee). Bob Bracken, a former Macoun Club member, contributed greatly to our knowledge of natural history in Ottawa through his excursions and articles over many years. Violetta Czasak's passion and interest led her to name the OFNC as beneficiary of her estate. All are missed.

The 2014 OFNC Committees

Annie Bélair

The following OFNC committee members were approved by Council. Committee Chairs appear in bold. If you have any questions or comments pertaining to the operations of a committee, or if you wish to contact the committee directly, please contact the chair at www.ofnc.ca.

Awards

Eleanor Zurbrigg

Ernie Brodo

Julia Cipriani

Christine Hanrahan

Ann MacKenzie

Birds

Chris Traynor

Tony Beck

Bob Cermak

Lorraine Elworthy

Anouk Hoedeman

Bernie Ladouceur

Christina Lewis

Gillian Mastromatteo

Mark Patry

Rémy Poulin

Jennifer Spallin

Nina Stavlund

Birds Records

(subcommittee)

Bernie Ladouceur

Bruce Di Labio

Marcel Gahbauer

Mark Gawn

Christina Lewis

Bev McBride

Jon Ruddy

Jeff Skevington

Michael Tate

Daniel Toussaint

Chris Traynor

Conservation

Owen Clarkin

Lynne Bricker

Fenja Brodo

Sandy Garland

Christine Hanrahan

Ann MacKenzie

Michael Ross Murphy

Rémy Poulin

Stan Rosenbaum

Frederick W. Schueler

David Seburn

Ken Young

Ian Whyte

Education and Publicity

Lynn Ovenden

Mark Brenchley

Fenja Brodo

Linda Burr

Kathy Conlan

Sandy Garland

Ann Prescott

Natalie Sopinka

Jonathan Vanamburg

Events

Julia Cipriani

Robert Alvo

Holly Bickerton

Hume Douglas

Jakob Mueller

Jeff Skevington

Finance Committee

Barbara Chouinard

Dan Brunton

Ann MacKenzie

Rémy Poulin

Ken Young

Fletcher Wildlife Garden

Barry Cottam

Ted Farnworth

Sandra Garland

David Hobden

Diane Lepage

Elizabeth Moore

Brenda McCrea

Barbara Riley

Henry Steger

Eleanor Zurbrigg

Macoun Club

Rob Lee

Annie Bélair

Barbara Gaertner

Diane Kitching (rep. on
Council)

Membership

Henry Steger

Dave Smythe

Verna Smythe

Publications

Dan Brunton

Carolyn Callaghan

Paul Catling

Jay Fitzsimmons

Sandy Garland

Tony Gaston

Bill Halliday

Karen McLachlan

Hamilton

Frank Pope

Jeff Saarela

Highlights from the 2012-2013 OFNC Annual Committee Reports

Annie Bélair

Our 135-year-old naturalist club requires a tremendous amount of work from its volunteers in order to keep exploring, studying and protecting the natural heritage in and around a metropolitan area of more than 1.2 million people.

This is an opportunity to underline the great number of Club events that took place in 2012-2013, the dedicated work done by its volunteers, the people who were

recognized for their work, and the publications it produced. It's also an occasion to acknowledge the less glamorous but necessary efforts to manage this club with its 700+ members, and to keep it strong.

Below are some highlights from the annual committee reports that were presented to the OFNC Council in November 2013. These were made official by a vote of the attendees at the Annual Business Meeting on January 14, 2014 and will be published in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, volume 128(3). They are also available on the OFNC website, on the committee page, at <http://ofnc.ca/commit.php>.

Awards Committee

- Awarded honorary memberships to Dr. J. Bruce Falls and Peter Hall
- Presented five other OFNC awards

Birds Committee

- Was actively involved in the successful BirdLife International World Congress held in Ottawa in June 2013
- Is working on an updated bird checklist for Ottawa
- Continues to operate a number of bird feeders throughout the Ottawa Greenbelt

Conservation Committee

- Was re-activated in late 2012
- Wrote several letters on conservation matters to government and land management offices
- Initiated new projects on flora conservation and other issues

Education and Publicity Committee

- Sold club materials such as bird and butterfly checklists, lanyards, 10X loupes and books
- Created five new items with OFNC logo: a banner, a bookmark, an OFNC sign atop the entryway sign to the Fletcher Wildlife Garden, a lanyard and a lens-wipe
- Selected and sponsored a youth to attend Ontario Nature's Youth Summit in September
- Brought OFNC displays to various events around the city

Excursions and Lectures Committee

- Co-ordinated 40 hikes, five workshops, nine monthly meetings, the OFNC Soirée and the Annual Business Meeting
 - ▶ Highlights included: workshops on invasive plants, lichens, nature photography, arthropods of your home, and crane flies; a tour of our national insect collection; an overnight trip to the Kazabazua

sand-plain; the annual butterfly count; an exploration of Brewer Pond life.

Finance Committee

- Is benefitting from upgrades to the OFNC's financial reporting systems over the last two years
- Is proud to present more accurate and detailed information to Council as a result of the recent revision of the OFNC's accounts

Fletcher Wildlife Garden

- Has seen much work done by the Butterfly Meadow, Friday Morning and Tuesday Invasive Species groups of volunteers
- Has been the object of new research by the Invasive Species Centre in Sault Ste Marie and the University of Guelph Microbiology Department regarding circles characterized by a lack of the invasive Dog-strangling Vine (DSV)
- Is slated to be one of the test sites for the release in 2014 for *Hypena opulenta*, a moth whose larvae feed on the leaves of DSV
- Raised approximately \$4000 with the annual plant sale

Macoun Field Club for Young Naturalists

- Held 19 indoor meetings and 15 field trips
- Had four special trips, two jointly with the OFNC and two with SOS Dunes (Pinhey Sand Dunes)
- Produced the 67th edition of their annual publication, *The Little Bear*

Membership Committee

- Reported a slight decrease in membership
- Continues to handle membership renewals and new memberships, and to coordinate distribution of information by mail or email to OFNC members

Publications Committee

- Achieved the challenge of getting *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* back on schedule
- Has seen a 20% increase over recent years in manuscript submissions
- Produced the four issues of *Trail & Landscape*

Treasurer

- Is handling the bequest received from Violetta Czasak.
- Oversaw the preparation of the committee budgets
- Continues to file reports with Canada Revenue Agency, deposit and write cheques on behalf of the OFNC, and prepare financial reports for Council and committees

Volunteers needed for the 2014 Falcon Watch

Anouk Hoedeman¹

It's that time of year again when we start keeping a close eye on Ottawa's resident Peregrine Falcons as they get ready to nest and, hopefully, raise young. We can't know in advance how many chicks will fledge, or when, but we do expect we'll need volunteers once again.

The OFNC's Peregrine Falcon Watch usually spans about two weeks in mid-June. Peregrines spend about five weeks incubating their eggs in spring. During this time, Falcon Watch leaders monitor the nests to confirm incubation, to count the eggs, and to wait for them to hatch. Once hatched, the chicks spend another five to six weeks growing, getting their feathers and strengthening their wings. Once they are ready to fledge, we need volunteers on site during daylight hours to monitor those first flights and rescue the chicks if they crash or get stranded.

If you would like to volunteer for the Ottawa Peregrine Falcon Watch, please email volunteer@falconwatch.ca, or visit falconwatch.ca for more information. We would appreciate any time you can contribute, even if it's just one shift.

As a Falcon Watch volunteer, you will receive training but are not expected to actually handle a bird if you are uncomfortable doing so. Volunteers should have good eyesight (binoculars are useful) and each shift needs at least one person who is able to run if necessary. Volunteers also record observations and educate the public about these amazing birds. We will contact volunteers once chicks have hatched and we can estimate when the fledging period will start. The Falcon Watch runs from sun-up to sundown, seven days a week, until the young birds are confident in flight.

Since 1997, the many dedicated Falcon Watch volunteers helped ensure that more than 20 young Peregrine Falcons could successfully fledge from Ottawa's two known nests. We don't know what ultimately happened to most of those fledglings, but we did learn in 2010 that one of our 2004 chicks, Zanar, had established her own successful nest on the Prescott-Ogdensburg Bridge over the St. Lawrence River.

Captive breeding programs and initiatives like ours have been critical to the recovery of this amazing species after they were almost extirpated from North America

¹ Ottawa Peregrine Falcon Watch

because of pesticides like DDT. The fastest animals on Earth, Peregrine Falcons have been clocked at 330 km/h during stoops, or attack dives. Yet, despite being fierce predators at the top of the food chain, they remain vulnerable.

Last year, the downtown nest at Albert and Lyon once again failed to produce young despite the appearance of Janus, a new mate for Diana. Although Diana has incubated eggs every year since 2006, the last time she produced chicks was in 2009. It's a mystery why the nest keeps failing; we have sent eggs for testing but have not received any conclusive results. All we can do is monitor the nest with fingers crossed and hope they'll succeed this year.

The more recent nest at Heron and Bronson did fledge one chick in 2013—we named him Pringle in honour of longtime OFNC volunteer Gordon Pringle, who passed away last year. Ivanhoe and Rowena (our names for that pair of peregrines) clearly find this to be an ideal site, because the building's many ledges give young chicks many places to land as they learn to fly.

At this time last year, we suspected there might be a third pair in the east end of the city. After getting a chance to visit the roof of the building in question, and after looking at photos of the falcons that hang out there, I am fairly certain there is no nest. It is probably Ivanhoe and Rowena are hunting in that area and perching on the building's balconies.

Visit falconwatch.ca for more information about Peregrine Falcons and the Ottawa Peregrine Falcon Watch. To report falcon sightings please email ottawa@falconwatch.ca. For any emergencies, such as to report a falcon in distress, please call Anouk at 613-236-7772 or 613-322-5269.

Volunteers Needed for the Monarch Waystation

Diane Lepage

The Fletcher Wildlife Garden's Butterfly Meadow will see a lot of changes this year.

Apart from sifting and planting three areas throughout the meadow, we will be maintaining the newly created Monarch Waystation and other areas. We plan on meeting Wednesday from 6 p.m. til dusk, from April 30 till September 10. If you have some time and are interested in helping out, please contact Diane Lepage at 613-987-5405. To find out about the garden check out the FWG website (fletcher@ofnc.ca).

Gardening in the Great Outdoors: Volunteers Needed

Barbara Riley

It might not feel like it now, but another gardening season is coming! The Fletcher Wildlife Garden can always use your help. Here's what's coming up.

Work is planned for three areas throughout the Butterfly Meadow, as well as maintaining the newly created Monarch Waystation. We meet Wednesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. till dusk, from late April to mid-September. Contact Diane Lepage at 613-987-5405 if you are interested in helping in the meadow.

We are also looking for volunteers for the Friday morning group (9 a.m. to 12 noon) to work in the Backyard Garden, plant nursery, ravine, ash woods and old field from late April until October. Maybe you would like to join a special working event such as potting in May for the Native Plant Sale or a one-day work-bee to put in new material or remove invasive species. Watch for our starting dates on the website (<http://www.ofnc.ca/fletcher.php>) or leave a message (613-234-6767 or fletcher@ofnc.ca) or just show up in late April.

The Tuesday Invasive Species Group (TISG) will support the other two groups, as well as focus on the removal of invasives and replanting in selected areas throughout the FWG. The TISG meets Tuesday mornings, 9 a.m. - 12 noon, starting in early May and going into late October, weather permitting.

All activities start at the Interpretation Centre. We supply work gloves and tools, but volunteers should dress for the weather and the type of work, bring their own water, and be prepared to feel satisfyingly physically tired afterwards! Willingness to work with a team trumps lack of experience. Volunteers can work as much or as little as they like as we are very flexible and every effort helps. The FWG is best reached by car or bicycle, as public transit is no longer available.

Please contact Barry Cottam at b.cottam@rogers.com if you'd like to help out.

Go native!

Say good-bye to lawn grubs, fertilizers, sprinklers, and pesticides

Fletcher Wildlife Garden Annual Native Plant Sale Saturday, 7 June 2014, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

(East side of Prince of Wales Drive, just south of the Arboretum)

Hundreds of beautiful wildflowers are native to the Ottawa region. We can tell you which ones suit your backyard. Plant a wide variety of native plants to grow a garden that changes from month to month, tolerates drought and doesn't need pesticides or chemical fertilizers. Most of our plants attract butterflies and birds that bring your garden to life.

See our demonstration backyard garden, and pick up free plant lists and "how-to" info on gardening for butterflies, attracting birds, building a backyard pond, and more!

Information: www.ofnc.ca/fletcher.



Shhh . . . the nursery in early March. In other trays nestle swamp milkweed, five species of aster, Prairie Smoke, harebell and Black-eyed Susans. The Friday morning group will grow hundreds more plants with potting parties every Friday morning until June 7. Come join us!

Orchid Longevities in Gatineau Park: Final Summary

Joyce M. Reddoch and Allan H. Reddoch¹

In 2008, we described for *Trail & Landscape* readers our long term project of monitoring orchid populations in the Parkway Sector of Gatineau Park. Now, five years later, we have decided to wrap up our work and summarize what we have learned from up to 49 years of records. The Table on page 67 updates our 2008 observations on the longest-observed populations. The bibliography contains our



Auricled Twayblade (Listera auriculata)

published accounts of detailed studies of orchids in Gatineau Park, as well as Hue MacKenzie's and Ed Greenwood's articles on their discovery of Auricled Twayblade (*Listera auriculata*), for the first time in Gatineau Park and in the Ottawa District. We monitored that population until it disappeared ten years later.

We had begun keeping field notes on Gatineau Park in 1967, but it wasn't until writing our 1997 monograph on Ottawa District orchids that we realized that we had long runs of data for 22 of the park's 36 orchid species. Additional observations from Anne Hanes and Ed Greenwood, as well as from herbarium records, extended some of our data back even further. Ten of the populations in the Table were still extant in 2013.

The two high-light dependent Ladies'-tresses died out when their open habitats were invaded by trees. Case's Ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes casei*) thrived for many years in the field behind the Speaker's house, but died out a few years after mowing ceased

¹ reddoch@magma.ca

and White Pine saplings filled the space. Northern Slender Ladies'-tresses (*S. lacera*) declined slowly over three decades as trees moved gradually into its rocky forest opening.

Most of the forests in the lower part of Gatineau Park originated after widespread logging and subsequent fires that ended by the 1920s (J.J. Connolly, personal communication). So they were about 40 years old in the 1960s when we began our surveys and are now about 90 years old. There were many more orchids in the park forests in the 1960s than now, for at least five reasons. One is that the trees have grown larger and have expanded their canopies so that less light reaches the plants on the ground, including the orchids there, which are mostly early and mid-succession forest species.

Secondly, since the 1980s, White-tailed Deer herbivory has had an increasingly serious impact on the



Downy Rattlesnake-plantain (Goodyera pubescens)

park's orchids. Fortunately for the orchids, sporadic heavy snows and ice storms, such as happened in the winter of 2012–2013, reduce deer populations from time to time. Thirdly, severe droughts can affect orchid plants, especially those that grow where the soil is thin. For example, the 2012 drought seriously reduced the number of Downy Rattlesnake-plantain (*Goodyera pubescens*) rosettes at our longest studied site. Fourthly, beaver flooding can kill forest trees, which fall over and expose moisture- and shade-loving orchids such as Checkered Rattlesnake-plantain (*Goodyera tessellata*) to intense, killing sunlight. On the other hand, large, stable beaver ponds sustain the streams beside which several orchids are found. Finally, acid rain may also have played a role in the disappearance of the orchids. Only three of the 13 forest orchid species that we monitored survived to 2013.

Seven of the 22 orchid species are in peatlands, and all seven species have been present throughout our study. That is not surprising because these wetlands likely are at least several centuries old and are changing at a slow rate, for the most part not seriously affected by flooding or other events. Interestingly, in the early 1980s, when Beavers flooded the shore fen where Rose Pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*) grew, some of the orchid plants remained on the sections of peat substrate that floated with the rising water. The orchids continued to flourish there.



Rose Pogonia (*Pogonia ophioglossoides*) *Hooker's Orchid* (*Platanthera hookeri*)

We feel privileged to have been exploring Gatineau Park for so many years. We have been excited when Hooker's Orchid (*Platanthera hookeri*) and Downy Rattlesnake-plantain seedlings finally flowered after more than a decade, and have been unhappy when deer have killed healthy, mature plants that we have known for many years. We have felt the ups and downs of Downy Rattlesnake-plantain offshoots which emerged and thrived but then were bitten off by deer. Then two of them produced new offshoots, but a few years later deer bit off one of them and it died. We were thrilled when the surviving offshoot continued to mature and flowered 13 years after first appearing. We have watched Beavers bringing branches across to the shore fen where they were building a new lodge on top of a large patch of Rose Pogonia, and have been put off with deer (deer again!) looking at us while we counted and photographed Downy Rattlesnake-plantain rosettes. Near Kingsmere, deer have eaten all of the vegetation that used to screen us from a well-used trail so that we were in plain view and perhaps attracting unwelcome attention to the orchids there. One more reason to bring our studies in Gatineau Park to a close.

We thank the National Capital Commission for granting us research permits over the years, and we appreciate Marilyn Light's sharing her observations on some of the wetland species.

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Large Purple Fringed Orchid
(*Platanthera grandiflora*)



Grass Pink
(*Calopogon tuberosus*)



Showy Orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*)

Longest-observed Orchid Populations¹ in Gatineau Park

Species	Total Years Known to be Present	Earlier Records by Other Observers	Our Monitoring Periods
Old Fields and Forest Clearings			
<i>Spiranthes casei</i> *	26		1981-2006 ²
<i>S. lacera</i>	29		1968-1996 ²
Forests: moist			
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	7		1973-1979 ²
<i>Corallorhiza maculata</i>	33	1965 (AH)	1975-1997 ²
<i>C. striata</i>	32		1968-1999 ²
<i>Galearis spectabilis</i> *	43	1969**	1973-2011 ²
<i>Goodyera pubescens</i> *	46+	1968**	1975-2013
<i>G. tessellata</i>	29		1975-2003 ²
<i>Platanthera hookeri</i>	29		1978-2006 ²
<i>P. orbiculata</i>	19		1969-1987 ²
Forests: moist to wet, including stream flood plains			
<i>Corallorhiza trifida</i>	33		1968-2000 ²
<i>Listera auriculata</i>	11		1967-1977 ²
<i>Platanthera aquilonis</i>	15		1993-2007 ²
<i>P. grandiflora</i>	45+		1969-2013
<i>P. psycodes</i>	45+		1969-2013
Peatlands: treed and open fens			
<i>Calopogon tuberosus</i>	46+		1968-2013
<i>Cypripedium acaule</i>	46+		1968-2013
<i>C. parviflorum</i> var. <i>pubescens</i>	49+	1965 (EWG)	1968-2013
<i>C. reginae</i> *	49+	1965 (EWG)	1968-2013
<i>Liparis loeselii</i>	49+	1965 (EWG)	1969-2013
<i>Platanthera clavellata</i>	46+		1968-2013
<i>Pogonia ophioglossoides</i>	136+	1878**	1967-2013

¹ Each population generally was less than 100 m across

² year after which population was no longer found

+ population still extant

* species at risk in Quebec (QC3)

** herbarium specimen in the National Collection of Vascular Plants, Agriculture Canada (DAO)

AH = Anne Hanes (1925-1981), personal communication

EWG = Edward W. Greenwood (1918-2002), record in the Native Orchid Location Survey

Trifolium fragiferum (Strawberry Clover): new to eastern Ontario

Frederick W. Schueler¹

It's one of the strangenesses of the flora of northeastern North America that all of our clovers, despite their familiarity, and their role in fixing nitrogen in various habitats and agroecosystems, are alien species. Most of our clovers are widespread, but with exotics, there's always some species which are found only in limited areas near where they've chanced to be introduced.

On 27 August 2013, Aleta Karstad, Owen Clarkin, and I were doing a survey of the periphery of a site which a "proponent" (Capital Region Resource Recovery Centre²) proposes to reduce to a landfill. Walking along the not-recently-mowed roadside of Frontier Road, near the site of the Stetson Flyer model airplane club's flying field, I encountered curious gall-like flowerheads on what appeared to be White Clover (*Trifolium repens*):

City of Ottawa: Frontier Road, 5.0 km SE Carlsbad Springs, 45.33348N 75.41819W. TIME: 18h01. AIR TEMP: 26°C, sunny, Beaufort light air. HABITAT: grassy roadside along White Birch-*Rhamnus frangula* brushy woods. 2013/176a/a. *Trifolium fragiferum* (Strawberry Clover). 1 specimen; abundant herb, in bloom, in fruit, all along the west side of the road.

This was a very surprising species to discover, because the flowers and leaves are so similar to the familiar *T. repens*, and then the seedheads are so different from anything you've ever seen before. I took them for galls, and would have recorded the extent of the colony had I realized it was a first record of the species for eastern Ontario. Candice Vetter tells us (18 Feb 2014) that after seeing the photo of the seedhead on Aleta's blog, she recognized the species along Rte 100 at Eadie Road, 45.31219°N 75.37211°W, 4.3 km ESE from the Frontier Road site, so there are doubtless more colonies to find in the North Russell/Vars area.

¹ Fragile Inheritance, 6 St Lawrence Street, RR#2 Bishops Mills, Ontario, Canada K0G 1T0 (613)258-3107 <hckcdb@istar.ca>

² <http://www.crrrc.ca/index.htm> (accessed 20 Feb 2014)



Trifolium fragiferum (Strawberry Clover). City of Ottawa; Frontier Road, 5.0 km SE Carlsbad Springs, 27 August 2013. Photo by Aleta Karstad.

Trifolium fragiferum was first recognized in Ontario by Bill McIlveen on 28 August 1991, along First Line, 1.1 km north of Sideroad 25 (Regional Road 12), in the Town of Milton, Halton Regional Municipality. On 19 August 1995 he found the species again, in Windsor, Essex County, 100 m west of the entrance to the Spring Garden Road ANSI on the south side of Spring Garden Road. The species had previously been known in Canada only in southern British Columbia (McIlveen 2001).

Since then, at least Bill and Mike Oldham have been alert to the species' occurrence in southern Ontario and have not observed it elsewhere. Bill writes: "As an update, I have not seen the species at the original site for a few years but I didn't exactly do a thorough search there owing to lack of safe parking. The species has hung about at the site in Windsor up to the present. Seems like all of our records are applicable to roadside settings so maybe the origin is some seed mix. At least there is no indication that it will ever become an aggressive invader." (e-mail 11 Feb 2014). "Bulk seed" is advertised by at least one company in the United States.³

I anticipate that the 2014 field season will allow delimitation of the extent of this species in the North Russell/Vars area. This species has been found on heavy clay soils, and since an element of the opposition to the proposed landfill is that it is planned for the notoriously unstable Leda clay, the landfill might provide extensive roadside-like habitat for proliferation of this species.

Acknowledgements: Thanks to Aleta and Owen for help in the field, to Laurie McCannell and Dump-this-Dump-2⁴ for organizing the survey, to Candice for her alertness, and to Mike Oldham and Bill McIlveen for reviewing the manuscript.

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Editor's note: This article was modified to fit *T&L* style and does not reflect the author's opinion on capitalization of the English names of higher taxa of organisms. To read Frederick Schueler's views on this see:

F.W. Schueler. 1999. What's in a Name? EOBN Almanack, Summer 1999 1(3):4-5. <http://pinicola.ca/m1999b.htm>.

³ <http://www.outsidepride.com/seed/clover-seed/strawberry-clover-seed.html>
(accessed 20 Feb 2014)

⁴ <http://www.dumpthisdump2.ca/>



27 August 2013 *Populus tremuloides* (Trembling Aspen). Frontier Road, 4.4 km SE Carlsbad Springs. <http://karstaddailypaintings.blogspot.ca> 2013 09 27-august-finds-me-looking-into-woods.html.

Northern Ring-necked Snake (*Diadophis punctatus edwardsii*) Rediscovered in Ottawa Area

Jakob Mueller



On August 8, 2013, I was surveying Sheila McKee Park for reptiles and amphibians, when I discovered a Northern Ring-necked Snake (*Diadophis punctatus edwardsii*). Sheila McKee Park is located on Sixth Line Road in the northwestern part of the City of Ottawa's municipal boundaries, and is owned by the city. According to data from the current Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas project, this is the first record of a Northern Ring-necked Snake from this location, and the first report of this species from the Ottawa area in over 20 years.

The individual snake found was approximately 25 cm in total length. It had a typical bluish-gray body with a slight iridescence, and with a yellow "collar" just behind the head. The top of the head was a darker brownish colour, and the snout was

noticeably blunt or squared. The underbelly was a bright yellow, bordered with a row of dark spots. Notably, the individual I found had recently lost about a third of its tail. This is interesting because some subspecies of Ring-necked Snakes are known for coiling their body and flashing the colourful underside of their tail, as part of a "caudal-luring" defensive display. However, this behaviour is not readily observed in the Northern Ring-necked Snake. When I found the snake, it simply squirmed and tried to escape. According to Ernst (2003), Ring-necked Snakes are least often observed (other than during the winter) between mid-July and late-August. However, on the evening of August 7, the area experienced a severe thunderstorm and heavy rain, which may have encouraged the snake and its prey to move closer to the surface.

The Northern Ring-necked Snake is one of 12 subspecies found across much of Eastern and Central North America, as well as parts of the western United States and Mexico. *Diadophis punctatus edwardsii* is found from southern Ontario to Nova Scotia, and across the northeastern US and Appalachians. Other subspecies include the Southern Ring-necked Snake (*D. p. punctatus*), found in the southeastern US, and the Prairie Ring-necked Snake (*D. p. arnyi*), found in the upper Midwestern US. While other subspecies are known to use a variety of habitats, Northern Ring-necked Snakes are believed to be vulnerable to moisture loss, and are rarely found outside woodlands. This is a contrast with the majority of Ontario's snake species, which typically prefer open habitats or ecotones between field and forest.

Ring-necked Snakes are a very secretive species. When temperatures are warm enough, much of their activity occurs at night, so they are not often encountered, let alone in the open. In addition to their nocturnal habits, they are believed to spend much time under cover, or creeping through forest detritus in search of prey. The few observations of Ring-necked Snakes active in daylight tend to occur during or immediately after rain. Ring-necked Snakes will dine on small invertebrates like worms and slugs, but dietary studies done on the Northern Ring-necked Snake show they have a decided preference for Eastern Red-backed Salamanders (*Plethodon cinereus*). Their present-day occurrence may be tied to habitats that offer suitable woodland cover and healthy populations of these salamanders.

Eastern Red-backed Salamanders are, in general, a very common salamander in suitable habitat in much of Eastern North America, including the southern half of Ontario. Some studies estimate that they are the most abundant vertebrate in eastern deciduous forests, with a biomass that is larger than the combined biomass of all other vertebrates in the habitat. Eastern Red-backed Salamanders have also persisted in more places than other salamander species, as they don't use ponds to breed. Where most salamander species lay eggs in temporary woodland pools, where young hatch and grow through a tadpole-like larval stage, Eastern Red-backed

Salamanders lay eggs in moist logs. Young complete the larval stage in the egg, and hatch as miniature versions of the terrestrial adults. Thus, Eastern Red-backed Salamanders can resist some human disturbance better than other species. If vernal pools are eliminated by habitat destruction or altered drainage, other salamanders disappear, but Eastern Red-backed Salamanders can still reproduce.

Personal experience has shown that Eastern Red-backed Salamanders are fairly easy to find in suitable habitat. This seems to hold true in much of southern Ontario, in Gatineau Park, and in Nova Scotia. However, within the Ottawa municipal boundary, Eastern Red-backed Salamanders are unusually rare or absent from forested areas that appear to be ideal. Prior to visiting Sheila McKee Park, I had found only one individual, in April 2012. Sheila McKee Park appears to be a local stronghold for the species, with one or several individuals turning up under nearly every piece of suitable cover, just as one might expect in suitable habitat elsewhere in the province. It is not surprising that the park also supports this salamander's specialist predator.

If you do visit Sheila McKee Park, be aware that it is a relatively small habitat, so try to minimize your disturbance. Always gently replace any cover objects (rocks or logs) that you turn over, and try not to disturb moist logs during dry spells, as you may alter an important microclimate for salamanders. Also, please respect the trail signs and stay in the northern half of the park; the southern half is used for a YMCA youth camp, which restricts access to the general public for safety reasons. Data being collected for the Ontario Reptile and Amphibian Atlas (ORAA) has shown that many snake species are in decline, disappearing from areas where they were once found. However, data on some of the smaller species is lacking. If you have seen Northern Ring-necked Snakes, or any other species, in the Ottawa area, reporting it provides valuable data to the ORAA and helps inform conservation efforts. As mentioned in the beginning of this article, the discovery of this Ring-necked Snake was the first ever documented sighting at this location, and the first in 20+ years in Ottawa. However, Ring-necked Snakes have undoubtedly inhabited the park for a long time. It is possible that area naturalists have seen them, but were unaware of the significance, and didn't report them. Reporting any and every reptile or amphibian sighting to the ORAA helps create an accurate picture of each species' distribution, and ensures that no populations of declining species will fall through the cracks.

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Springtime Clamour

Justin Peter

Oh, swelling buds of Elm in spring,
While Redwings vie,
They overwhelm our senses
As their shrill cries ring,
Won't break your promise
Soon here too warblers shall sing



Black and Decker: A Tale of Two Ravens

Chris Lewis



This is a story about persistence. It is a story from personal experiences, notes,

conversations and thoughts gathered over nearly 20 years. Mostly, it is a story about friendship and fidelity.

It begins with the setting, a place that has its own geographic and historic persistence in Ottawa: Carlington Hill. Situated approximately six kilometres (as the raven flies) from Parliament Hill, this site was quarried for limestone to produce lime cement for the sandstone faces of some of the Capital City's most famous edifices, including the Parliament buildings. In modern times (1965 until the early 1980s) the eastern side was an active ski hill and is now a popular tobogganing spot. The top of the hill conceals a reservoir that supplies approximately one third of the city's water. The old quarry on the western side is now used as a city snow dump—and a haven for ravens.

In 1994-1995 Bob Braeken, long-time Ottawa naturalist and resident of Carlington, noticed that a pair of Common Ravens was spending a lot of time in or near the quarry. As recently as the early 1990s, ravens were uncommon in the Ottawa area. The only reliable place to see them was across the river in the Gatineau hills. In the late 1970s participants on Ottawa-Gatineau Christmas Bird Counts placed meat from local butcher shops on the ice of the Gatineau River to entice ravens to show up and be counted. Sometimes it worked, sometimes it didn't.

However, this highly intelligent, adaptable and opportunistic species has a lengthy history (in myth, legend and reality) of associations with humans. Results of the second Ontario breeding bird atlas show that ravens have made a dramatic southward expansion since the previous atlas 20 years earlier, "due at least in part to development and urbanization, with its resultant increase in roads and roadkills, landfill garbage and nest-site availability on buildings, towers, and other human structures" (Peck in Cadman *et al* 2007). So it is really no surprise that the old quarry, with its rocky ledges and the abundance of nearby urban food sources, would seem an appealing piece of real estate for a pair of ravens looking to set up a nest.

May 1, 1996 was the first time I visited the quarry with Bob. Using a spotting scope, he pointed out a good-sized stick nest on a ledge on the western wall. The nest was unoccupied that day, but we did see a raven flying over the adjacent woods. The next year, in late March, we observed two ravens several times in the area and on the 29th we saw a pair busily adding sticks to the nest. Thrilled by this activity, we decided to name the pair "Black and Decker" in recognition of their "renovation" work. On 24 April 1997 the female (Black) was sitting on the nest while the male (Decker) brought food to her.

These events solidified our friendship with these birds. A dictionary definition of "friend" is: "one attached to another by affection or esteem." Despite naming these

ravens, and their subsequent offspring (who doesn't like to name things they feel connected to?) Bob and I tried not to assign anthropomorphic assumptions to their behaviours. But we did feel friendship's affection and esteem, and often wondered about their perception of our presence in their world.

Another friend, Langis Sirois, was also interested in the activity and expansion of Common Ravens in Ottawa and Gatineau. The 2001-2005 atlas provided incentive to discover new breeding sites. Langis took his interest in ravens even further, and travelled all over the 50K (the area within a 50 km radius from Parliament Hill) in search of ravens' nests. In the spring of 2008, he recorded over 50 pairs at nests and 40 successfully fledged young (pers. comm). It was also in 2008 that Black and Decker produced SEVEN young—the most ever recorded for a nest in Ottawa-Gatineau until 2010 when another pair monitored by Langis tied that record.

In 1997 Black and Decker's first confirmed family were two bouncy youngsters that Bob and I dubbed Bonnie and Clyde. Not because they were thieves (though ravens do have a bit of a reputation for that sort of activity), but because of nearby road names: Bonnie Crescent and Clyde Avenue. In 1998 we decided that characters from "The Flintstones" might provide appropriate monikers, so the five young of that year were Fred, Wilma, Barney, Betty, and Pebbles. Then it was characters from the movie "Shrek": Shrek, Fiona, Donkey, Dragon, followed by letters of the alphabet: Abby, Bobby, Cory, Dory, Eddy, Fuzzy, Gerry, Harry, Izzy, Jenny, Kenny, Larry . . . by 2012 we had run out of baby names, but Black and Decker lived on.

Information regarding the longevity of ravens varies depending on the references one consults. According to some, 10-15 years is the average life span in the wild; over 20 years according to others. In captivity the species can live for over 40 years, and one was documented at the ripe old age of 80. Bob and I sometimes wondered if the Carlington pair was the same year after year. Considering their success at this location, and the repetition of behavioural patterns year after year, it does seem probable. Ravens begin courting, pairing and breeding in their second year of life, so by the spring of 2013 Black and Decker could have been 21 years old—and still going strong!

During our visits to the quarry (average of five visits per year from late February to mid-May, not including side-trips to the nearby woods for birds and other natural wonders such as Blue-spotted Salamanders), we noted and enjoyed some consistent patterns. Bob and my pattern was: drive to the north end of Clyde Avenue, park the car, walk to the fenced-off area around the quarry, look for birds along the way, set up the spotting scope and have a cigarette. Sometimes we brought a lunch; always we looked for ravens. Black and Decker's pattern was: fly together and perform the amazing aerobatic displays for which ravens are renowned, or waft up out of the

quarry and fly low overhead, looking directly at us. When Black was incubating or tending young in the nest, Decker often sat on a hydro pole east of the quarry, as if surveying his territory. Often they would vocalize, loudly or softly. Croaking, rattling, clucking, knocking, and deep bell-like calls were most common. A nest full of growing young could get quite raucous. Though we assumed they were “talking” to each other, we were always aware that they were aware of us, so we “talked” to them too. Pedestrians, dog-walkers and cyclists using the nearby recreational pathway might have thought we were a bit touched, but we didn’t care. We were touched by our friends and the privilege of observing their families so close to where we lived.

Occasionally we saw other ravens flying by the quarry. Either Black or Decker, or both, would fly with them, and follow them until they left the hill. Were these birds young from previous broods? Strangers passing through? New pairs looking to move into the neighbourhood? The Carlington pair did not seem agitated, or aggressive towards them. Other species were not as well tolerated. On 28 March 1998 a Peregrine Falcon flew into the quarry and was vigorously chased off. American Crows (those notorious harassers of other birds) were definitely not allowed anywhere near. The most bizarre incident we observed took place on 22 March 2012. A pair of Canada Geese was swimming in the melt water at the base of the snow dump. Black was tending five young, then left the nest after feeding them. As soon as she departed, one of the geese flew up to the nest and attempted to land on it! Within seconds Black was all over the interloper, swooping at it and sending it back to the water below. The non-offending goose floated nonchalantly while the raven, head and throat feathers fully erect and bristling, proceeded to dive at the offender, forcing it under water several times. After returning to the nest, Black continued to bristle for quite some time. Don’t mess with a raven’s nest.

Although Bob and I were not as ambitious as Langis in searching for raven nests, we did note several in Ottawa’s west end. Among them were: one on a communication tower near Carling Avenue and Herzberg Road, and another at the former Nortel complex on Carling near Moodie Drive. Both nests produced young in 2001. In 2009 a pair nested in the Britannia woods for the first time and had two young. At least one juvenile successfully fledged from a nest on a ledge above the main entrance of the Ottawa Hospital Civic campus in 2011. Some of these nests became inactive in the following years. In our experience, the pair at Carlington quarry was the most long-lived and productive. Most years we weren’t lucky enough to witness the actual fledging of Black and Decker’s babies, but nearly every year we observed that they grew to a good size. Lots of stretching, bouncing and wing-flapping on the nest indicated they were ready to go. On 30 April 2012, five ravens were in the quarry, sitting and hopping about on various rocky ledges as well as in nearby trees. Some were obviously juveniles and begged when an adult flew by.

Over the years the Carlington ravens built three different nests in the quarry, two on the western wall and one on the east side. The most frequently used was the second western nest. With the annual addition of new material, it became huge and no doubt very weighty. In February 2013 Bob and I were pleased to see Black on her nest once again. On 26 March one very small nestling was visible and Black appeared to be prodding or shuffling something around, perhaps more eggs or young. When we returned ten days later not only the nest, but the entire ledge was gone. Some indistinct debris lay on the quarry floor, covered in snow. There had been several wet and heavy snowfalls the previous winter, so perhaps the combination of natural rock erosion, the weight of the nest, and a slide of snow from above brought the nest to its end. There was neither sight nor sound of ravens.

Needless to say, we were shocked and saddened by this loss, especially since we had seen that very young baby during our last visit. There is no way of knowing whether or not the youngster survived, though both Bob and Langis told me that they may have heard the calls of a young raven somewhere near the quarry a few weeks later. What's certain is that, within the next two weeks, Bob and I observed a pair of adult ravens flying around inside the quarry and hopping from ledge to ledge—perhaps Black and Decker, checking out new sites?

Many questions linger: Of the at least 50 young produced by the Carlington pair, how many survived after leaving the nest? How many matured to form their own partnerships and nests? How many of their offspring were among the proliferation of breeding pairs discovered in Ottawa-Gatineau, especially in the early years of the 21st century? How many of them were among the record numbers seen on the 2012 and 2013 Fall Bird Counts? And will Black and Decker build again?

My dear friend and partner, Bob Bracken, passed away in July 2013. I will no longer have him to share this friendship with ravens. But I still talk to ravens, whenever I see them. And I see them often, in both urban and rural areas of Ottawa-Gatineau. I look forward to visiting the Carlington quarry in 2014. And if I see a pair of ravens building a nest in that quarry—or anywhere—my heart will be glad. Life goes on.

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My Most Interesting Bird Lifers

Roy John

One of the most enjoyable parts of being a naturalist is seeing a new species—a lifer. This is the spice in the birder's cake. After discussions with friends, I was reflecting recently on some of my most notable lifers and thought I would share these thoughts with you.

My most distressing lifer. Many years ago a university friend and I travelled to Norfolk to look for the very first pair of Eurasian Collared Doves to nest in England. The weather was atrocious with heavy rain and strong winds. We had no tent, only a fly sheet for protection so it was a very uncomfortable trip. And yes, we two, rain-soaked individuals did briefly see the doves flying past us in the pouring rain. After leaving university I moved to Canada and it was several years before I went back for a vacation. From the comfort of my mother's kitchen I watched several Eurasian Collared Doves feeding in her backyard as they, by then, had become common throughout the UK. It is now estimated there are 990,000 pairs of these birds in the country. Over the same period the native Turtle Dove population has sadly plummeted to 14,000 pairs.

My most embarrassing lifer. I was being driven along a narrow back road in Assam, India, when I spotted a Lesser Adjutant, a large gangly stork with a bare head and neck pouch. It was in the wet ditch next to the road and in a great position for a photograph. The driver stopped and I took a series of shots through the window, without disturbing the bird. Our trip leader was in the car following and he suddenly called out "Cinnamon Bittern." I searched frantically up and down the ditch to no avail. Frustrated, I poked my head out of the window to ask where the bittern was hiding. I learned it was immediately behind the stork. Focussing my binoculars on the Adjutant, I finally saw the tiny bittern. When I looked at my photos of the Lesser Adjutant, the Cinnamon Bittern was in the background and I had completely missed it.

My most amusing lifer. This would have to be the Atlantic Puffin. From my first sighting of these quaint little alcids at Portland Bill, a rocky narrow promontory in the southern UK, I have been a fan. They have the face of an impish clown and the iconic walk of a tuxedo-clad Chaplin. If that is not enough to make you smile then you should watch them fly into their burrows. This they do at full speed, head first. I am always waiting for the almighty thud as bird and burrow collide—it never

happens. To add to this performance they splay their ridiculous coral-red feet out as they reach the burrow entrance.

My most beautiful lifer. The stars of a recent trip were a pair of stunning Blue-eared Kingfishers; one sitting on a footbridge in a luscious Sal forest. This bird is similar to the Common Kingfisher, another remarkably beautiful bird, but the Blue-eared has blue, not red, ear coverts, and a far richer, more intense cobalt-blue back and more concentrated rufous under parts. There are many brilliantly-coloured species of bird (rollers, parrots, bee-eaters etc.), but these little gems stood out.

My most expensive lifer. When I first moved to Canada, I went to a Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds meeting. The speaker was from Germany and showed a film she had taken of a "Bavarian" Wallcreeper. A pair had nested in the grey stone walls of a Bavarian castle. The setting was dramatic and I was entranced by this surprising bird. So I decided to make an extra effort to see this Eurasian species. Over the next 30 years I made six tries in four countries without success. It became my Jinx bird. Recently, as I was leaving Corbett National Park, India, we got a phone call from an experienced naturalist urging us to hurry to Garjiya Village in northern India. The naturalist was standing in the middle of a bridge to the Garjiya Devi Temple. Undemeath was a dry monsoon river bed of grey rocks, with the remnants of a river flowing past the temple walls. There among the rocks were grey birds with carmine wings—two Wallcreepers at last.

My easiest lifer. When I moved to Nova Scotia, I asked the local birders to alert me to the presence of Dovekie. So I was happy when I got a call from a man who confidently said he could show me this species. Half an hour later I was on his doorstep and he handed me a shoe box. Inside a cute black face flicked its white eyelids at me. We took this lovely soft Dovekie down to the sea and released it. It had come down on a parking lot in a storm and he had rescued it as these auks cannot take off from land.

My most disappointing lifer. As a young lad I watched all the nature programs on the new invention called TV. I saw many wonderful birds like ducks, hawks, shorebirds and woodpeckers, in black-and-white, of course. As I got older and was able to go to the countryside I began to see these creatures in real life. The Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers (and North America's woodpeckers) were colourful, impressive beasts, and so I looked forward to seeing the much rarer Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*). Not only was this a woodpecker, but because of its ability to twist its neck 360 degrees while hissing like a snake it had been appropriated by the practisers of witchcraft and had given us the word jinx. When I finally saw my first one I realised it was an unimpressive, tiny, sparrow-sized and sparrow-coloured bird. Worse, this particular individual was foraging on a large mound of revolting,

odorous garbage and not in some handsome pine tree. I have since seen more and these have been in nice trees, so my opinion has risen with time.

My most bizarre lifer. In 2005 we stayed at the Sandoval Lake Lodge in Peru. One night I heard that one of the guides had found a sleeping Olivaceous Woodcreeper. This bird is small, greyish olive and rufous member of the 57 species of look-alike woodcreepers. It is about the size of a Field Sparrow. After supper he led some of us to see this bird. It was tucked tightly into a narrow vertical crack in a tree trunk and apparently used this hideaway for several weeks at a time. It was a very unusual way to get a lifer!

My rarest lifer. The Grenada Dove is endemic to, and the national bird of, the Caribbean island of Grenada. It is the size of a Rock Pigeon with brown upperparts, a white forehead and breast. There are only a hundred or so left and I managed to see one. This species is scarcer than my rarest Canadian bird—the Whooping Crane with more than 300 wild birds.

My “commonest” lifer. The first time I saw a Royal Penguin it was standing on Macquarie Island with 39,000 of its relatives (out of a world population of two million). The species I saw the most of at one time was about 3/4 million Greater White-fronted Geese in Galway Bay on the South Saskatchewan River (no, not in Ireland). There were 250,000 Sandhill Cranes and many thousands of duck in the same bay; so it was an awesome spectacle.

My first Canadian lifer. In 1965 I was on the transatlantic Cunard liner, the *Carinthia*, moving to Canada. We were just off Newfoundland and I was walking the deck in the morning expecting to see more of the seabirds (kittiwakes, fulmars and jaegers) I had observed on most of the crossing. A little girl was running toward me and she flushed a small bird from the deck. It landed by the lifeboats and I tracked it down and made notes on its plumage (I did not have a North American field guide at this time). Later I identified it as a Canada Warbler—how appropriate. In the afternoon of that day I saw my first Common Loon, another Canadian icon

My most serendipitous lifer. In 1964, while still at university, I took a trip with my friend (the same one I went to Norfolk with) to the Cairngorms, Scotland (in 2003 the area was declared the Cairngorms National Park). This was in the days before birdfinding guides so we simply explored any good habitat and were very successful. We saw Black Grouse, Capercaillie, Dotterel, Crested Tits and many more. In a valley we also observed a distinctive raptor, an Osprey. When we told the warden he immediately swore us to secrecy as this nest site had not been publicised. This eagle had been extirpated in the UK over 50 years earlier. In 1954 two birds tried to nest at Loch Garten (about 40 km north of Mount Cairngorm) but egg collectors had

frustrated their efforts. Conservationists used barbed wire around the base of trees, electrical wires on the tree itself and they set up 24 hour surveillance. This was not entirely successful so any new nest was kept strictly secret.

My most secret lifer. In 1987 I was sworn to total secrecy (again out of fear of Europe's fanatic egg collectors). On a quiet off-road location in eastern England I was shown a group of five adults and one juvenile Common Crane. For seven years (not until after the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds published the bird's UK status) I did not tell anyone, not even my wife or even claim it as a lifer. After a 400-year absence the first pair of birds had returned the Norfolk Broads. Even with conservation efforts, the UK population is still only 20 or so individuals.

We will keep travelling to new, exciting locations and will hopefully see more new bird species, as well as mammals, reptiles etc.



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Coming Events

Arranged by the OFNC Events Committee
For further information, please check our website
www.ofnc.ca

PLEASE NOTE: The OFNC website ([ofnc.ca](http://www.ofnc.ca)) contains the most up-to-date information on events. Please check it regularly for changes or additions to events. The Club's Facebook site <<http://www.facebook.com/groups/379992938552/>> and Twitter account <[@OttawaFieldNat](https://twitter.com/OttawaFieldNat)> will also be used to announce last minute changes to events. **Note that we anticipate having several weather and year-dependent events that are not included in *Trail & Landscape* and will only be announced at the last minute via our website, Facebook and Twitter.** These include seasonal events such as Snowy Owl viewing, the spring Snow Goose spectacle, Eardley Eagles and Mudpuppy Night.

ALL OUTINGS: Field trips to natural areas in our region and beyond take place all year round. These events are for OFNC members and prospective members. Prospective members are welcome unless the notice indicates that participation is limited, or that bus travel is involved. Guests should be aware that, in all cases, OFNC liability insurance applies to OFNC members only. Times stated for events are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, please contact the leader.

Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.

MONTHLY MEETINGS: Beginning in February 2014, our monthly meetings will be held at the **Central Experimental Farm in the K.W. Neatby Building, Salon B, at 960 Carling Avenue**. There is ample free parking in the lot on the West side of Maple Drive by Carling Ave., immediately to the east of the main entrance to the Neatby Building.

EVENTS ORIENTED TO ALL AGES: Kids are welcome on all of our trips. We have highlighted particular hikes as "oriented to all ages" as these are most likely to be enjoyed by typical children. Depending on your child(ren)'s interests and stamina, please feel free to bring them along on any events. For events tailored to kids, check out the Maeoun Field Club (<http://www.ofnc.ca/macoun/index.php>).

Sunday
6 April
8:00 a.m.
to
11:00 a.m.

BIRDS FOR BEGINNERS
Leader: Bev McBride
Meet: Entrance to Britannia Filtration Plant on Cassels Street.
 Join Bev to check out what birds are back or moving through as spring migration proceeds. We will spend a few hours exploring the Mud Lake area, taking our time to listen and look. Bring binoculars and your favourite bird field guide if you have one. This event goes rain or shine.

Tuesday
8 April
7:00 p.m.
Social

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
AUSTRALIA THROUGH THE EYES OF A MINERALOGIST AND A MARINE BIOLOGIST
Speaker: Dr. Kathy Conlan
Location: Salon B, K.W. Neatby Building, Central Experimental Farm, 960 Carling Avenue.

7:30 p.m.
Presentation

Joel Grice and Kathy Conlan, scientists at the Canadian Museum of Nature, spent a year's sabbatical in Adelaide, Australia. Kathy will give a photo tour from the perspectives of a mineralogist and a marine biologist and show some of what they learned from their research and travels. Some of their highlights: opals in Coober Pedy, the Undara lava tubes, Naracoorte's gigantic fossils and a dive off the Great Barrier Reef.

Saturday
12 April
8:30 p.m.
to
sunrise

AN APRIL NIGHT IN THE WILDS
Leader: Eleanor Thomson 613-269-3523
Meet: Thomson cabin (20 minutes beyond Calabogie).
 Experience the beauty and delights of springtime wilderness at night. This will be an all-night outing to see, hear, smell, taste, and feel what the real world is like when you would normally be indoors and asleep. We will wend our way through the woods, and visit several ponds where salamanders and frogs are looking for mates. We will go silently, and much of the time without using flashlights, in order to experience being a harmonious part of the night-life of the forest. Dress as warmly as you would in winter, with hat and mitts, and wear warm socks and waterproof boots. If it rains, bring a raincoat. (Drizzly nights are especially enjoyable!) You are welcome to pitch a tent and sleep before heading home. Please call Eleanor for further details.
Please note that this is a cell-phone-free sanctuary. Cell-phones are prohibited.

Sunday
13 April
7:00 p.m.
to
10:00 p.m.

FROGS AND BIRDS AT NIGHT

Leader: Bernie Ladouceur

Meet: Lincoln Fields parking lot, northeast corner near Pizza Pizza (Richmond Rd. and Assaly Rd.) for carpooling. Come and hear a little night music! This trip will consist of roadside stops only, but the roads can be muddy and the temperature can drop like a stone when the sun sets. If the weather forecast appears to be really unsuitable (constant rain, winds in excess of 20 kph, or weather too cold for frogs), we will move the trip to the Friday or Saturday before on the same weekend, or to the Saturday or Sunday on following weekend. Check the website for updates as the date approaches.

Tuesday
15 April
and
22 April

12:00 noon
to
3:00 p.m.

SPRING HAWK-WATCH SERIES (TUESDAY)

Leader: Jon Ruddy

Meet: 11:30 a.m. at Lincoln Fields parking lot, northeast corner near Pizza Pizza (Richmond Rd. and Assaly Rd.) **or** 12:00 noon at Hawkwatch location (Greenland Rd., northwest of Thomas Dolan Pkwy).

Come out and enjoy some bird-of-prey migration - Hawks/Eagles/Falcons/Vultures are on the visual menu! Open to all skill levels. Bring: water, snack, scope, binoculars, field guide, hat, and sunglasses (especially on sunny days).

Saturday
19 April
and
26 April

12:00 noon
to
3:00 p.m.

SPRING HAWK-WATCH SERIES (SATURDAY)

Leader: Jon Ruddy

Meet: 11:30 a.m. at Lincoln Fields parking lot, northeast corner near Pizza Pizza (Richmond Rd. and Assaly Rd.) **or** 12:00 noon at Hawkwatch location (Greenland Rd., northwest of Thomas Dolan Pkwy).

If the previous event sounds interesting but you can not make it on a Tuesday? Or you want to see what is flying by on another day, then join Jon on the Saturday. This is the same event, just a different day.

**Saturday
26 April
7:00 p.m.
to
10:00 p.m.**

OFNC AWARDS NIGHT

Especially Kid friendly

Location: Enter from Maitland Avenue (east side) just north of the Queensway. **BUS ACCESS:** Bus #85 (along Carling Avenue), get off at Maitland Avenue and walk south on Maitland towards the Queensway for 0.5 kms (~ 7 minute walk).

The Soirée by a new name. Join us for some fun at our annual wine and cheese party and celebrate with the honoured winners of our Annual Awards. Photographers and artists will exhibit new works for everyone to enjoy. Kids, bring your natural history displays. The Natural History Trivia Quiz will feature a display table, and projected images. For information call Hume at 613-234-0122.

**Sunday
27 April
8:00 a.m.
to
early
afternoon**

EARLY MIGRANTS AT PARC NATIONAL DE PLAISANCE

Leaders: Mark Gawn and Anouk Hoedeman

Meet: Parc national de Plaisance entrance on rue Galipeau, just north of the ferry dock in Thurso, Quebec.

The park holds the largest wetlands in the Ottawa area, and the trip is timed to coincide with the tail end of the spring waterfowl migration. Expect to see many ducks along with early passerine migrants. The trip will proceed rain or shine, waterproof footwear is recommended. Bring binoculars and a spotting scope if you have one as some viewing will be distant. There is \$6 fee to visit the park, payable on entry. The trip will end in the early afternoon, final stop will be a casse-croûte with some of the region's best poutine (but bring a snack to tide you over until then!).

**Tuesday
29 April
and**

SPRING HAWK-WATCH SERIES

Leader: Jon Ruddy

Meet: 11:30 a.m. at Lincoln Fields parking lot, northeast corner near Pizza Pizzà (Richmond Rd. and Assaly Rd.) **or** 12:00 Noon at Hawkwatch location (Greenland Rd., northwest of Thomas Dolan Pkwy).

**Saturday
3 May
12:00 noon
to
3:00 p.m.**

Come out and enjoy some bird-of-prey migration - Hawks/Eagles/Falcons/Vultures are on the visual menu! Open to all skill levels. Bring: water, snack, scope, binoculars, field guide, hat, and sunglasses (especially on sunny days).

Saturday

3 May

11:00 a.m.

to

3:00 p.m.

TURTLE WATCHING AT MUD LAKE

Leader: Jakob Mueller (*Contact jm890_7 AT hotmail DOT com*)

Meet: Entrance to the filtration plant on Cassels Road and Britannia Conservation Area (Mud Lake parking area).

This guided hike will circle Mud Lake looking for spring wildlife activity, focussing on basking turtles. Spotting features and natural history will be explained for those species found—several could potentially be observed in the wetlands, without even leaving the city! Bring a snack, binoculars, and dress for the weather. Some trails may be muddy, and sunscreen is recommended.

This event may be postponed or cancelled in the event of heavy rain or unseasonable cold.

Saturday

3 May

9:30 a.m.

to

11:30 a.m.

BREWER PARK POND AND MEADOW LIFE—A JOINT EVENT WITH THE MACOUN FIELD CLUB

Leaders: Hume Douglas, Holly Bickerton, Wayne Knee, Rob Lee and the Macoun Field Club

Meet: northwest side of the pond at 9:30 a.m., but arriving later is fine. Parking is available off of Brewer Way behind the baseball diamonds. The pond is 100 m south of the parking lot on the other side of a treed embankment. Map link: <http://g.co/maps/gzqpw>. Come muck about at the edge of Brewer Pond: frogs, turtles, fish, insects, plants and birds are there to find. Rubber boots and a net and pail would be useful. Very child friendly. The pond is mostly shallow with gradual shorelines. Children should nevertheless be closely supervised, especially because of the deeper nearby Rideau River. The pond area is part of an off-leash area for dogs, but is generally less busy than the river and pathways. Cancelled in the event of steady rain.

Sunday
4 May
9:30 am
to
12:30 p.m.

SPRING EPHEMERALS

Leader: Bryarly McEachern

Meet: at 9:30 a.m. near the Pizza Pizza at the northeast corner of the Lincoln Fields parking lot, close to the intersection of Assaly and Richmond Roads **or** at 10:15 a.m. at the Mill of Kintail parking lot on Ramsay Concession Road 8.

Join Bryarly for a walk at the Mill of Kintail to seek, admire, and learn about spring ephemerals. What are spring ephemerals? They are those lovely short-lived wildflowers that emerge in spring and disappear by early summer. Bring a wildflower guide (e.g. Newcomb's), notebook and hand lens, if you like. We will have lunch in the forest, so please pack one if you plan to stay. Dress appropriately for the weather. This jaunt will run sun or sprinkle, but will be cancelled in the event of heavy rain. If you have any questions about the trip, please email bryarly@gmail.com or call 613-858-8822. Hope to see you there!

Thursday
8 May
8:30 a.m.
to
12:30 p.m.

SPRING WILDFLOWER OUTING

Leader: Eleanor Thomson (613-269-3523)

Meet: Lincoln Fields parking lot, northeast corner near Pizza Pizza (Richmond Rd. and Assaly Rd.), or call Eleanor if you want to meet at the Bell Bushlot.

Come for a leisurely spring ramble on the Bell Bushlot near Almonte. This Nature Conservancy property is predominantly a Sugar Maple forest on the Canadian Shield. You may wish to bring binoculars, camera, hand lens, field guides and snack. If it rains, bring a raincoat.

Saturday
10 May
11:00 a.m.
to
2:00 p.m.

TURTLE WATCHING AT PETRIE ISLAND

Leader: Jakob Mueller (Contact jm890_7@hotmail.com)

Meet: West end of the Petrie Island parking lot, on the north end of Trim Road.

Couldn't make it to Mud Lake last week? Then come out and explore this location in Ottawa's east end! Follow several trails on Petrie Island, looking for spring wildlife activity, with a focus on basking turtles. Spotting features and natural history will be explained for those species found. Bring a snack, binoculars, and dress for the weather. Some trails may be muddy, and sunscreen is recommended. The parking lot is "pay and display"; the weekend rate is \$2.00. This event may be postponed or cancelled in the event of heavy rain or unseasonable cold.

**Tuesday
13 May
7:00 p.m.
Social**

**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
ALGONQUIN TO ADIRONDACKS: KEYSTONE FOR
ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY IN EASTERN NORTH
AMERICA**

Speaker: Ken Buchan

Location: Salon B, K.W. Neatby Building, Central Experimental Farm, 960 Carling Avenue.

**7:30 p.m.
Formal
program**

The Algonquin to Adirondacks (A2A) region is a key component in a network of ecological connections in eastern North America, forming the largest, most intact linkage across the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River waterway. It is vital for maintaining biodiversity in eastern North America, and will assume an increasingly critical role as climate changes. The Algonquin and Madawaska Highlands in the northwest and the Adirondack Mountains in the southeast serve as relatively undeveloped and lightly populated anchors at either end of the A2A region. The area between, however, is more fragmented by urban, agricultural and industrial development, and major transportation corridors. Ken helped develop the A2A Conservation Initiative in the 1990s and currently serves on the boards of the A2A Collaborative and the Ottawa Valley Chapter of CPAWS. He will speak about the work of these organizations to protect and restore ecological linkages through the region.

**Wednesday
28 May
8:00 a.m.
to
12:00 noon**

BIRDING IN THE SOUTH END

Leader: Gord Belyea

Meet: Take Albion Road south from Bank Street (approximately 6 km), turn west (to the right, opposite the Slots sign) on High Road and continue for about 1 km to the parking area (it's a dead end) near the access point to the IFR Radar dome.

The fields to the south of the airport offer one of the most diverse populations of sparrows in the area. We could expect to see Song, Savannah, Field, Chipping, Grasshopper, Vesper, Clay-colored, and possibly White-throated and Swamp Sparrows on this walk. Other possibilities include Indigo Bunting, Nashville Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Tree Swallow, and Black-billed Cuckoo. There is also an important Eastern Bluebird trail in this area.

Please note: there are no bathroom facilities on this walk.

Sunday

1 June

08:00 a.m.

to

12:00 noon

BREEDING BIRDS AT REVELER RECREATION AREA

Leaders: Mark Patry and Paul Schoening

Meet: for carpooling at the Leitrim Park and Ride (Gilligan Road, South of Leitrim Road and west of Albion) at 7:15 a.m. where we will proceed to the unsigned area located at the NW corner of Reveler Road and Concession 10-11, to start the walk at 8:00 a.m. Limited parking.

Dress properly for high and wet grass and rocky paths. This is not a manicured Park. The trails are wild. If time permits, we may go to the Russell Sewage Lagoons. Several sparrow species and other breeders should be singing. It is an overgrown farm/orchard with some dense forest nearby and a variety of habitats. Sparrows, tanagers, grosbeaks, buntings, cuckoos, grouse, turkeys, thrushes, orioles, woodpeckers, wrens, swallows, hawks, flycatchers can all be expected. It is also within the 50 km radius around the Peace Tower that constitutes the official "Ottawa District" for birding.

Sunday

1 June

10:00 a.m.

to

12:00 noon

PINK LADY SLIPPERS AND DUNE TOUR

Leader: Volunteers of the Pinhey Sand Dunes Restoration Project

Meet: Park at the corner of Vaan and Pineland, east of Woodroffe. Meet at the Sand Dune, which is on the south side of Pineland.

Learn all about Pink Lady Slipper orchids and about Ottawa's only remaining and intact sand dune and about the efforts to rehabilitate and protect it.

Thursday

5 June

7:00 p.m.

to

9:00 p.m.

DOG-STRANGLING VINE: THREATS AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

Leader: Naomi Cappuccino

Meet: Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre.

Naomi Cappuccino, biologist at Carleton University, will give a presentation on the ecology of Pale Swallow-wort, a.k.a., Dog-strangling Vine. Come find out what makes this plant such a menace to Ottawa area green spaces, and what's being done to combat this pest. Following the presentation, we will walk through the Fletcher Wildlife Garden for a close-up look at swallow-wort. This event will start with a presentation at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre. Dress appropriately for the weather.

Saturday
7 June
9:30 a.m.
to
12:30 p.m.

FWG ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE
Location: Fletcher Wildlife Garden Parking lot, east side of Prince of Wales Drive, south of the traffic circle.
 This annual fund-raising event is a good opportunity to learn more about gardening with native species, get advice and buy plants not often found in local nurseries. Most of our plants attract butterflies and birds that bring your garden to life.

Sunday
8 June
6:00 a.m.
to
11:30 a.m.

BIRDING BY EAR IN LAROSE FOREST
Leader: John Cartwright (613-789-6714)
Meet: 6:00 a.m. at the Kelscy's in the Elmvale Acres Mall at the southwest corner of St Laurent and Smyth for carpooling. Those living closer to Limoges can meet us at 7:00 a.m. at the cemetery just south of Clarence-Cambridge Road on Grant Road.
 We likely will spend about four hours in the Larose Forest, listening to and observing songbirds. Bring binoculars, a snack, a drink, and plenty of mosquito repellent. There will be a variety of biting flies in the forest at this time of year. This trip will be cancelled in the event of continuous rain.

<p>Tuesday 10 June 7:00 p.m. Social</p>	<p>OFNC MONTHLY MEETING DON'T EAT ME: HUMAN USES FOR PLANT CHEMICAL DEFENCES Speaker: Steven Chatfield Location: Salon B, K.W. Neatby Building, Central Experimental Farm, 960 Carling Avenue. Plants acquire simple nutrients from their surroundings and use energy from light to produce complex sugars and carbohydrates, proteins, fats and oils, and essential micronutrients and vitamins. Thus, plants are concentrated packages of resources that would succumb quickly to microbial and animal feeding if it were not for their incredibly diverse array of chemical defences. As chemical factories, plants have been utilized by humans throughout the ages, and into the present day, in many ways. Their chemical defences have yielded structural materials, drugs (therapeutic, inspirational and recreational), feed-stocks for industry, insecticides, fungicides, spices, preservatives, cosmetics, dyes, and poisons. This talk surveys these defensive chemicals, their use by humans and plants, and their future potential.</p>
<p>7:30 p.m. Presentation</p>	

Friday
13 June
8:00 p.m.
to
12 midnight

MOTHING IN LAROSE FOREST

Leaders: Diane Lepage (613-987-5405) and Suzanne Deschênes

Meet: 8:00 p.m. at McDonald's, 1890 Chemin Innes Rd,
Gloucester Parking lot. We will drive for 30-35 minutes to the
forest.

Discover the amazing night life of moths which come to black lights from dusk to dawn in the Larose Forest. We will set up sheets and battery-powered lights and then wait for the fun to begin. It is the time of the year when the big Silk worms come out. Bring a flashlight, bug repellent and a camera (the latter optional). A lawn chair would be useful.

NOTE: This event is limited to 20 participants. RSVP with the leader for the event and for a ride.

This trip will depend on the weather. Should the temperature be below 16°C or in the event of rain, the trip will be cancelled.

Saturday
14 June
7:00 a.m.
to
12:00 noon

BIRDING IN GATINEAU PARK'S PARKWAY SECTOR

Leaders: Justin Peter (*jbpetr@yahoo.ca* or 613-858-3744) and Carlos Barbery

Meet: 6:30 a.m. near the Pizza Pizza, northeast corner of the Lincoln Fields parking lot, near Richmond Road and Assaly Road or 7:00 a.m. at the P8 parking lot in Gatineau Park.

Gatineau Park is host to a great variety of habitats and consequently a great diversity of breeding birds. We will explore a number of areas by foot, travelling between each by vehicle as we gradually make our way up towards the Eardley Escarpment overlooking the Ottawa Valley. Along the way, we'll look and listen for birds in a variety of habitats, including beaver ponds, meadows, alder and willow thickets, and hardwood forest. We should expect a variety of warblers, vireos, sparrows, flycatchers and more. There is a possibility of observing Indigo Bunting and Scarlet Tanager, as well as both cuckoo species. And we will also look at anything else of interest! Binoculars, a drink and a mid-morning snack are recommended. There will likely be some elevation change so wear sturdy footwear. You may also need a hat and bug spray.

Saturday
21 June
6:00 a.m.
All day

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BIOLOGY STATION LANDS

Leaders: Jakob Mueller (*jm890_7 at hotmail.com* or (613) 314-1495) and Rob Alvo (*robalvo1 at gmail.com*).

Meet: 6:00 a.m. at Lincoln Fields parking lot, northeast corner near Pizza Pizza (Richmond Rd. and Assaly Rd.)

Travel south to the Frontenac Arch and explore the biodiversity in the Lake Opinicon area. Participants will explore the property of the Queen's University Biology Station and hike on a section of the Cataraqui Trail. Birds abound, including rare Red-shouldered Hawks and Cerulean Warblers. The area is also one of Ontario's hotspots for reptile and amphibian diversity, home to many species, including Ontario's only lizard and Canada's largest snake. Many southern plant species from the deciduous forest contribute to a unique flora here, growing on the rocks of the Canadian Shield.

This will be an all-day excursion. Please prepare to carpool at the meeting point. Participants should bring weather-appropriate clothing, binoculars, sunscreen, lunch, and snacks and good hiking shoes or boots. Also, mosquitoes and poison ivy are likely to be present at times. (Remember: bug spray can be lethal to amphibians, so those interested in frogs and salamanders should use chemical-free alternatives, like long sleeves.)

Saturday
5 July
8:30 a.m.

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL OTTAWA AREA BUTTERFLY COUNT

Especially Kid Friendly

Leaders: Jeff Skevington and Peter Hall

Meet: in the parking lot at the intersection of Dwyer Hill Road and March Road (NE of Almonte).

Rain date:
Sunday
6 July
8:30 a.m.

[Call Jeff Skevington between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Friday night at 613-832-1970 if in doubt about the weather or for specific questions regarding this event. If you need a ride from Ottawa please use the OFNC Facebook or Twitter accounts to try to find a ride share.]

The North American Butterfly Association has coordinated butterfly counts following the same format as Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) for many years. These counts are published as part of an ongoing program of NABA to census the butterflies of North America (see <http://www.naba.org/counts.html> for more information). Volunteer participants focus on a 24 km diameter

Saturday
5 July
8:30 a.m.

Rain date:
Sunday
6 July
8:30 a.m.

ANNUAL OTTAWA AREA BUTTERFLY COUNT cont'd
circle and conduct a one-day census of all butterflies sighted within that circle. As with CBCs, there is a \$4.00 charge to participants to support the publication of the results (not obligatory, but encouraged). This is the seventh year that OFNC will sponsor a count (and the 13th year that this count will have been conducted). The count area will be centred at Manion Corners (SW of Ottawa), a site used as a former non-OFNC count circle. It includes several important butterfly areas such as the Long Swamp and the Burnt Lands alvar. It is an all-day event so bring your lunch. No experience is necessary! We will put teams together on site and match up people so that everyone has a chance to learn from the experts. If you have binoculars and a butterfly net, bring them along. Butterflies may be captured and brought to the count compilation alive for identification and release.

Rubber boots are recommended, as some of the sites have a lot of poison ivy.

We plan to meet at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden at 6:00 p.m. after the count for a compilation and pot luck dinner. Please bring along some food to share plus your own drinks. We will have a collection of butterflies along to help people figure out what they saw and learn a bit more about these amazing creatures. We hope that everyone can make it to the compilation, as it will be a lot of fun; however, if you can't make it, we will get your data in the afternoon before you leave.

Sunday
July 13
10:00 a.m.
to
12:00 noon

GHOST TIGER BEETLE AND DUNE TOUR

Leader: Volunteers of the Pinhey Sand Dunes Restoration Project

Meet: Park at the corner of Vaan and Pineland, east of Woodroffe.

Meet at the Sand Dune, which is on the south side of Pineland. Learn all about the amazing Ghost Tiger Beetle and about Ottawa's only remaining and intact sand dune and about the ongoing efforts to rehabilitate it and protect it.

Dinner Time



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DEADLINE: *Material intended for the July - September issue must be in the editor's hands by 1 May, 2014. Mail your manuscripts to:*

Karen McLachlan Hamilton
2980 Moodie Drive, Nepean, ON, K2J 4S7
tl: (613) 838-4943; email: hamilton@storm.ca

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